

To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board *(Draft)*  
From: Nancy Selman  
Date: November 16, 2004  
Re: Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2004

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. For 2004: 12/14 For 2005: 1/11

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

- 1) Minutes and Update –
  - a) Minutes - Rentricity – The Board suggested that Janice contact June Swallow at the State Health Department to discuss Rentricity.
  - b) Update –
    - i) Megawatt should be abbreviated with a capital M
    - ii) The Board asked if the Energetech Port Kembla project is on schedule, which it is (completion date is January 2005.)
    - iii) RECA –
      - (1) The Board requested an update on where the individual members of the RECA aggregation are in their negotiations with CEI for RECs and hedge contracts.
      - (2) It was noted that the Fund subsidy of the RECs is capped at \$7.50 per Mwhr which is 50% of the originally anticipated price, \$15 per Mwhr. The question was raised that now that a higher price for the RECs is being discussed, will a greater subsidy be requested?
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind Project – The Advisory Board approved Portsmouth Abbey's request for additional funding for a 50-meter wind measurement tower instead of the 40-meter tower requested in October, 2004. The 50-meter tower is closer to the height of a wind turbine and its installation is seen as helping in assessing the visual impacts of a turbine.
- 3) PP&L Request for Credit Support for Purchase of RECS from Hull 2 Wind Project – Erich Stephens of PP&L and Larry Chretien of Mass Energy (PP&L's sister company in MA) presented a request for the Fund to provide credit support for a transaction to purchase RECs from the 1.5 MW Hull 2 wind turbine, to be installed in 2005. The total amount of the transaction is \$900,000 per year over the life of the contract. The Fund made a commitment (documented in a letter to PP&L dated October 17, 2003) to provide \$50,000 of credit support to PP&L for RECs transactions which occur prior to the Berkshire Project coming on line, at terms to be negotiated. PP&L will continue to negotiate with the owners of Hull and make a formal request to the Fund in December 2004 for credit support of a defined structure. At that time, PP&L will be requested to provide updated financials to the Fund.
- 4) RISD Solar Decathlon – The Board voted to approve a grant in the amount of \$51,833 to RISD to be used for a PV system for an 800 foot model solar house to be built by students and entered in the 2005 Solar Decathlon. The model house will be exhibited in Washington DC on the National Mall. The grant was approved with the following conditions:
  - a) An educational videotape be made (preferably by film students) of the building process and put up on the web, and used for other education and outreach purposes. If necessary, the Fund could make available a small grant for filming the video.
  - b) The model house be brought back to RI and put on semi-permanent display (a couple of years was suggested) in order to promote clean energy.
- 5) Million Solar Roof Initiative (MSRI) – Chris Warfel of Entech Engineering circulated and discussed a memo updating the Board on MSRI activity in the Northeast region.
- 6) PV Training for Electricians – Chris Warfel gave an update on PV training activities, which is also summarized in his November 2004 update to the Fund.
- 7) PV on Schools – Chris Warfel gave an update on the PV on Schools program:

- a) Data acquisition – production run by Heliotronics has been completed. The Board request an update for next month (and every month thereafter) on the installation of data acquisitions systems.
- b) A question came up regarding the length of warranty on systems installed in schools.
- 8) C&I PV RFP – Proposed changes to the PV RFP were circulated with the November, 2004 Update and discussed at the meeting. The proposed changes fall into 2 categories:
  - a) Stepped incentives are being proposed with a decline in the amount of incentive as system size increases; and
  - b) Changes in the definition and requirements of non-profit institutions, which under both the existing and proposed incentives qualify for higher incentives.

There was a lot of discussion among board members of the above. A strong suggestion was made that the Fund not provide incentives for larger systems as it was viewed that PV is inherently uneconomical and that the Fund should be giving incentives for PV only for the outreach value, and putting as many smaller systems in place as possible for greater visibility. A request was made that changes in outreach requirements be circulated for comment and added to the other proposed changes to the PV RFP for discussion in December, 2004. Proposed improvements to the Solar on Schools program will also be discussed. Bob Grace will research prices of solar boat kits for distribution to schools.

- 9) Smartpower – A written proposal from Smartpower was circulated with the November 2004 update and discussed. There was a lot of discussion of the value of the public outreach campaign by Smartpower, with strong concern voiced that the benefits did not support the costs and questions regarding the focus of the effort. The Board voted to approve a \$185,000 budget for the outreach and public education campaign conducted by Smartpower, assuming a plan can be agreed to which addresses the following points:
  - a) The need to support customer-sited projects in their efforts to convince neighbors of the need for the projects. These might include the Johnson and Wales University, Portsmouth Abbey, URI wind projects, as well as other wind projects which are in development or may arise in 2005.
  - b) Smartpower will work with PV contractors to help support their efforts to promote solar technology sales.
  - c) Payments will be made in phases with the Fund retaining the ability to cancel the program if Smartpower is not perceived to be performing.
  - d) The program will be targeted to support the GreenUp campaign and onsite installations of wind as noted above. It will leverage other events in the State, such as Earth Day. Smartpower will work with other agencies on the ground in the State to leverage their activities to promote clean energy (Audubon, Save the Bay, GRC, ECRI.)

#### Decisions:

- 1. Portsmouth Abbey Wind Project - The Board approved Portsmouth Abbey's request for additional funding for a 50-meter wind measurement tower instead of the 40-meter tower requested in October, 2004.
- 2. RISD Solar Decathlon – The Board voted to approve a grant in the amount of \$51,833 to RISD to be used for a PV system for an 800 foot model solar house to be built by students and entered in the 2005 Solar Decathlon.
- 3. Smartpower - The Board voted to approve a \$185,000 budget for the outreach and public education campaign conducted by Smartpower, assuming a plan can be agreed to.

#### Actions:

- 1. A letter will be written to Portsmouth Abbey informing them of the grant.
- 2. A letter will be written to RISD informing them of the grant.

3. PP&L will submit a formal proposal to the Fund for credit support and provide updated financials at that time.
4. Proposed changes to the PV RFP will be discussed at the January meeting (moved from December to accommodate a discussion on the Fund's Strategic Plan.)
5. Smarpower will be requested to submit a revised plan.

Attendance:

McClanaghan, Janice  
Condon, Pat  
Capobianco, Julie  
Jacobson, David  
Rose, Vin  
Ward, Harold  
Teichert, Kurt  
Lueker, Bill  
Stearns, Dave  
Rochon, Emily  
Selman, Nancy  
Grace, Bob  
Hartley, Doug  
Warfel, Christopher  
Keller, Janet  
Pavlides, Lefteris  
Ryan, Eleanor  
Stephens, Erich  
Chretien, Larry